fallen syndicate

PRESENTS

the demon prince of the momochi house

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CHAPTER
17

BUBBLES OF TIME -PART 2-

His scales have blackened...

But one of them still shines brightly...

The seven rivers flow through the human world and the spirit world...

...and the Dragon Lord protects those clean waters.

BUT...

DID YOU FORGET THAT THE POLLUTED WATER WILL HARM AYAKASHI?!

YOU FOOL!

WHA?!

ZU-SHI!

HIMARI HAS...!!

AT THIS RATE, SHE'LL BE WHISKED AWAY BY THE DRAGON LORD!!

SFX: splash

DON'T BE FOOLISH.

LORD NUE!! PLEASE, LET US GO AFTER HER!!

SFX: burn

SFX: slither

I'M NOT LETTING GO OF HIMARI.

CURSE ME ALL YOU WANT TO...

IF YOU ATTEMPT TO FIGHT THE DRAGON LORD...

YOU WILL SURELY BE CURSED...

I DON'T CARE.

LORD NUE...

LORD NUE, PLEASE STOP AT ONCE!!

YOU'RE NOT FIT TO BE UP AND ABOUT...

YUKA-RI!

Wobble

Pant

Pant

PLEASE, ALLOW ME TO GO...

PLEASE...

LET ME...

JUST THIS ONCE, LET ME FACE THE DRAGON LORD...

YUKARI! WHAT ARE YOU SAYING...?!

YOU'RE FORGETTING THAT THE DRAGON LORD MIGHT BE ANGRY WITH YOU...!

IT DOESN'T MATTER!!

I JUST WANT TO KNOW WHAT THE DRAGON LORD'S TRUE INTENTIONS ARE!

SFX: roar

.....

YOU'D BEST RETURN.

Please...
THAT IS...
YUKARI'S TRUE FORM...
Dragon Lord, please calm down...!
HEAR MY WORDS...
DESCENDANT OF WATER: "WATER SNAKE..."
RELEASE YOUR POWER AND GO FORTH.

ROOO

OOOOAAAAA

AAR

Dragon Lord...!

The Dragon Lord doesn't recognize me...

Just as I expected...

DON'T GIVE UP!!

Hikari...

YUKARI?! IS THAT YOU, YUKARI?!

SFX: splash

Hold onto me, tightly.

!

...!

I understand.

NEAR THE DRAGON LORD'S NECK, THERE'S A SCALE THAT'S STILL SHINING!

WE MIGHT BE ABLE TO DO SOMETHING ABOUT IT!

A talis-man?!

SFX: rip

SFX: splash!

THE WATERS ARE SUDDENLY CALM...

SFX: rust e

...WHAT WAS THAT?

.....

WHAT EXACTLY IS GOING ON IN THERE...?

SFX: bubble

SFX: bubble

WHAT... WHAT ARE THESE IMAGES...?!

YUKARI...

THESE ARE MY 'MEMO-RIES.'

A CHILD...?

HOW I BECAME AN AYAKASHI.

A long, long time ago...

...STOP.

-SFX rumble

In a desolate city, there lived a silver-haired, blue-eyed orphan.

WHY ARE WE BEING SHOWN YOUR MEMO-RIES...?

THESE ARE FROM A LONG TIME AGO...

WHEN I WAS STILL A HUMAN CHILD.

...AND IT LOOKS LIKE OUR HEARTS HAVE MERGED.

WE'RE BEING ENGULFED IN THE BUBBLES CREATED BY THE DRAGON LORD...

GREAT TIMING.

I WILL REVEAL EVERYTHING TO YOU, HIMARI.

IT'S THE GOVERNMENT'S FAULT.

ALL BECAUSE OF THE EMPEROR...

This man was a minister, the right-hand man of the emperor, infamous for misgoverning this land.

TAKE A LOOK AROUND.

THIS IS THE CITY'S MAIN STREET, BUT CHILDREN LIKE YOU ARE DYING BY THE ROADSIDE EVERY DAY.

DO YOU KNOW WHY?

!!

CHILD...

COME RIDE WITH ME.

SFX: rumble

ガラ ガラ

YOU POSSESS SUCH EXQUISITE FEATURES.

I WILL MAKE YOU SHINE.

.....

...THAT'S RIGHT.

The minister raised the boy as an assassin.

LITTLE BY LITTLE, YOU WILL GET CLOSE TO THE EMPEROR, AND THEN...

...The boy never understood the misfortunes of the world.

Whether he was born so, or was generally apathetic...

I SHALL CALL YOU "YUKARI."

And soon...

He grew up completely loyal to the man who raised him...

ARE YOU READY, YUKARI?

He accepted the task of assassinating the emperor.

...He pretended to be the minister's distant relative.

When he turned fourteen...

The boy became the subject of the emperor's exravagant displays of affection.

And took every measure to hide his true identity.

He could not bring suspicion to himself or the minister.

He was careful...

And entered the inner palace.

...And he instantly took a liking to Yukari.

The emperor was a lover of exquisite things...

YU-KARI...

...YUK-ARI!

YUKARI, LEND ME YOUR LAP

?

GO AHEAD

FLOP

The boy decided to make his move...

The emperor was said to be an evil ruler who brought suffering to his people...

I WONDER IF I COULD BE LIKE YOU...

UNAWARE OF THE WORLD... WOULD I BE ABLE TO MAKE SUCH A PURE EXPRESSION?

Until, one day...

DID YOU CALL ME, YOUR HIGH-NESS?

The young boy began to wonder if assassinating the emperor was the right thing to do.

But, they did not know that he had suffered just as much...

...Burdened by his heavy duties.

Your High-ness...

!!

YUKI-ARI ?

RUN.

SFX: slam

THE MINISTER PROVIDED PROOF OF YOUR TREASON!

YOU'VE BEEN EXPOSED.

DON'T MOVE!

AH I'VE ALWAYS WANTED . .

TO BE FREE... JUST LIKE YOU...

fall

In order to protect himself...

...The boy fought back.

UGH...

HE'S... HE'S TOO STRONG ...!

The soldiers were no match for the boy.

It was a horrific scene.

All along, the minister had plotted to pin his actions on Yukari.

The boy was the child of a demon.

And called this the work of the "Devourer."

The minister had covered his tracks...

Instead of a trial, the boy was sentenced to drown as a 'sacrifice' to the Dragon Lord.

Yukari's past...

...TO SENTENCE ME TO SUCH A QUIET DEATH.

COME TO THINK OF IT, INSTEAD OF A PUBLIC EXECUTION, IT WAS CONSIDERATE OF THE MINISTER...

SHALL I TURN YOU INTO AN AYAK-ASHI...?

THE DRAGON LORD SWEPT ME UP...

AND TURNED ME INTO A "WATER SNAKE," ONE OF HIS SUBORDINATES.

I WAS SUPPOSED TO DIE RIGHT THERE AND THEN, BUT...

YOU...

I did nothing but pass the time.

THEN, ONE DAY, THE DRAGON LORD VISITED AND TOLD ME...

I MUST HAVE BEEN COMPLETELY USELESS IN HIS EYES.

From then on, I lived alone in this waterfall for a very long time.

I STILL DON'T KNOW WHY HE DID.

I followed his orders and proceeded to the Momochi House.

There, I met Lord Aoi and became his shikigami.

SINCE THEN, I'VE RETURNED MANY TIMES.

"GO THERE, AND NEVER COME BACK," HE SAID.

"IT IS AN UNINHABITED, RUN-DOWN HOUSE, BUT I CAN FEEL A CHANGE COMING."

GO TO THE MOMOCHI HOUSE.

I HAD ALWAYS WONDERED WHY I WAS SENT TO THE MOMOCHI HOUSE, WHY I WAS TOLD TO NEVER RETURN.

I ALWAYS WANTED TO ASK HIM.

NOT ONCE WAS I ABLE TO MEET THE DRAGON LORD.

I...

Perhaps I had disobeyed the Dragon Lord in some way...

...I THINK IT WAS BECAUSE YUKARI SEEMED SO LONELY.

...I THINK...

...LONELY?

...I WAS...

.....?

YOU SPENT ALL THAT TIME BY YOURSELF.

SURELY, YOU MUST HAVE FELT LONELY.

MAYBE THAT WAS WHY THE DRAGON LORD SENT YOU TO THE MOMOCHI HOUSE, WHERE PEOPLE MET AND GATHERED.

I ALWAYS THOUGHT THAT I HAD ANGERED THE DRAGON LORD...

I...

!...

"LONELY..."

...YOU'RE RIGHT...

NOW THAT I THINK ABOUT IT, I MUST HAVE BEEN QUITE LONELY...

In that house...

I got to meet Lord Aoi...

...And live with Ise and everyone else.

And then you were there too, Himari!

I WAS SO LONELY, BACK THEN.

LOOKING BACK, I UNDERSTAND NOW.

SFX: bubble
LONELY...
SUCH A LONELY HEART YOU POS-SESSED...
YES... YOU WERE LONELY...

Yukari...

I saw that there was little life in your eyes.

When we first met and I looked into your heart...

I could feel the emptiness in them.

The water flows...

...Reflecting the justice and cruelties of the world, even the fates of humans.

And for that reason...

I keep these waters pure and flowing through the underworld and human world.

So I thought, why not offer you life as an ayakashi?

The clarity of pure water is the greatest loneliness there is...

I LIVE IN THESE WATERS...

FOREVER KEEPING THEM CLEAN.

That day, your eyes were as clear as the water.

...But it seemed that turning you into an ayakashi was not enough.

I HOPED TO GIVE THEM LIFE AGAIN...

It is my duty to keep the water flowing.

DRAGON LORD...

I was unable to stay by your side...

I closed my eyes...

...And covered my ears.

In a sense, I turned my very being into stone.

I sealed off my heart.

...So I never revealed myself to you...

...And remained in these waters.

I had hoped that going to the Momochi House would cure your loneliness, even just a little.

That's why I decided to send you away.

I wanted you to forget about me...

SFX: splash!

During that time, I let my guard down and fell under someone's curse.

I lost sight of myself, and my purpose... I was a pathetic sight.

...But feeling your heart once again has brought me back.

It was my fault for being weak...

That's no longer a problem...

WHO WOULD EVEN DARE GO AGAINST THE DRAGON LORD...?

The pollution is clearing...!

After losing sight of myself, I could not allow the waters to flow...

DRAGON LORD...

Yukari... You must devote your heart to your new master and serve the Momochi House.

I shall let these waters flow again.

...And restore these waters.

I will return to solitude...

WATER FLOWS, BUT IT ALSO COLLECTS, LIKE PUDDLES!

DRAGON LORD!!

...HI-MARI?!

WELL...

UM, I MEAN...

...WE'RE ALWAYS CONNECTED TO EACH OTHER.

WITH-OUT A DOUBT...

THANK YOU VERY MUCH FOR PROTECTING THE WATERS!

YOU'RE ALWAYS BY OUR SIDE, EACH AND EVERY DAY.

EVEN IF IT'S JUST A LITTLE, I HOPE THAT THE LONE-LINESS FADES AWAY...

RIGHT.

YOU'RE RIGHT, HIMARI...!

Let's make a promise...

...to meet again.

...AS MANY TIMES AS WE CAN.

DRAGON LORD...

WE WILL ALWAYS BE READY TO WELCOME YOU.

IF YOU EVER VISIT THESE WATERS AGAIN, PLEASE LET ME KNOW.

WE SHALL MEET AGAIN!

YES...

◇H HO...

splash

dash

HIMA-RI...!

LORD YUKA-RI!

flip

.....

flutter

I HAVE RETURNED.

LORD NUE.

KNEEL

THE "WATER SNAKE."

YUKARI.

AT YOUR HUMBLE SERVICE.

I WAS NEVER WORRIED.

MY DEEPEST APOLOGIES FOR CAUSING YOU...

WORRY.

Whaat?!

HIMARI, ON THE OTHER HAND...

HOW-EVER...

SFX: glare

YOU'RE ONE OF MY SHIKIGAMI.

LORD NUE...

I'M SURE ...

I ORDERED YOU NOT TO DO ANYTHING FOOLISH.

Well, I'm fine now, so..

SFX: shudder

I'LL HAVE TO PUNISH YOU PROPERLY LATER.

HUH?

LET'S GO HOME.

Okay!

WHAT EXACTLY IS THIS CURSED TALISMAN...?

- FLEETING TIME PART 2 - END -

百千さん家のあやかし王子

AYAKASHI OUJI NO HYAKUSEN-SAN CHI

百千さん家のあやかし王子

THEN WHY NOT RECRUIT SOME MORE?

WE'RE TRYING, BUT IT DOESN'T DO ANY GOOD WHEN NO ONE APPLIES.

UH... SIR? I'M SORRY, BUT WE'RE LOW ON STAFF.

DAMMIT! WHERE ARE THOSE NEW CHAPTERS?!

ARE YOU FREAKING SERIOUS?

WELL, UH... YES, ACTUALLY.

MANGA

FIST SLAM

IT'S SUCH A PITY TOO. WE HAVE SO MANY LOVELY PROJECTS THAT ARE JUST DYING FOR STAFF.

Hug me

hold me

Love me♥

...

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... WHY ARE YOU LOOKING AT ME LIKE THAT?

IT'S KIND OF CREEPING ME OUT.

STARE

... THIS GUY'S WEIRD. STILL, MAYBE I SHOULD VOLUNTEER AND HELP SPEED UP THEIR RELEASES.

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